

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of facilitating childhood learning comprising: providing fastening devices for use on apparel articles; modifying the shape of the fastening devices to give the fastening devices an appearance of characters to be portrayed in a story; teaching a child how to manipulate the fastening devices by relating the story in a selected media wherein the shape of each fastening device is modified to give the fastening device a personalized appearance by adding features of a human being, the features comprising at least one of eyes, ears, a nose, a mouth, arms or legs.

Claim 2 (cancelled):

Claim 3 (cancelled):

Claim 4 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fastening devices include at least one of a zipper, a snap, a button, a buckle, a string and a lace.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the characters include multiple characters developed using multiple zippers, multiple snaps, multiple buttons and multiple buckles and multiple strings or laces.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the media for relating the story is at least one of a book, television or radio rendition, movie, video, cards.

Claim 7 (cancelled):

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of the characters are named with a selected name to facilitate character identification and thereby promote learning.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method comprising: providing a fastening device; modifying the shape of the fastening device to give the fastening device an appearance of a character to be portrayed in a story ; and relating the story in a selected media, in order to facilitate childhood

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learning on how to manipulate the fastening device, wherein the fastening device is for use on apparel articles media,

the shape of each fastening device modified to give the fastening device a personalized appearance by adding features of a human being, the features comprising at least one of eyes, ears, a nose, a mouth, arms or legs.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the fastening device is chosen from the group consisting of a zipper, a snap, a button, a buckle, a string and a lace.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A system comprising: a group of fastening devices for use on apparel articles, the fastening devices having an appearance of characters to be portrayed as characters in a story; and a selected media for relating the story,

each fastening personalized by adding features of a human being, the features comprising at least one of eyes, ears, a nose, a mouth, arms or legs

wherein association between the fastening devices and the media facilitates childhood learning on how to manipulate the fastening devices.

Claim 12 (cancelled):

Claim 13 (cancelled):

Claim 14 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fastening devices includes at least one of a zipper, a snap, a button, a buckle, a string and a lace.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 14, wherein the characters include multiple characters developed using multiple zippers, multiple snaps, multiple buttons and multiple buckles and multiple strings or laces.

Claim 16 (cancelled):

Claim 17 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein each of the characters are named with a selected name to facilitate character identification and thereby promote learning.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A system comprising: fastening devices for use on apparel articles, the fastening devices having an appearance of characters; and a media, the media being selected from the group consisting of at least one of a book, television or radio rendition, movie, video, cards,

the shape of each fastening device personalized by adding features of a human being, the features comprising at least one of eyes, ears, a nose, a mouth, arms or legs

wherein association between the fastening devices and the media facilitates childhood learning on how to manipulate the fastening devices.

Claim 19 (cancelled):

Claim 20 (cancelled):

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the apparel articles include clothes.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the apparel articles include clothes.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the apparel articles include clothes.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the apparel articles include clothes.